

# ON THE RECORD

The Newsletter of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Tennessee

Fall 2014 Vol. 2, Issue 2



# A Message from the U.S. Attorney

# Protecting the Civil Rights of All Citizens



U.S. ATTORNEY EDWARD L. STANTON III

One of my top priorities since being appointed U.S. Attornev has been to ensure that uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Amer-

icans, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

In 2011, I created a dedicated Civil Rights Unit in our office. The Civil Rights Unit prosecutes the full spectrum of federal civil rights crimes, including public corruption, sex trafficking, and hate crimes. In addition, fair housing, fair lending, Americans with Disability Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and Uniform Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act cases are handled by this Unit. The Civil Rights Unit has received national acclaim for its efforts, including prominent recogni-

tion from Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. and the Department for its work in combatting human and sex trafficking.

One sample prosecution was finalized late last year. A man named Terrence Yarbrough, a/k/a, "T-Rex," was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted on 10 counts of sex trafficking and one count of conspiracy to commit food stamp fraud. T-Rex was a vicious sex trafficker. At his trial, victims courageously recounted a series of violent acts perpetrated by Yarbrough to coerce them into prostituting for him, including beatings with belts, wooden coat hangers, crowbars, padlocks attached to belts, and dog chains.

This office also prosecuted Melvin Robinson, a Memphis Police Officer who beat a handcuffed prisoner. Robinson was convicted of using excessive force and was sentenced to 84 months in prison.

In March of this year, Justin Shawn Baker of Jackson, TN, was sentenced to 12 months in prison after he pled guilty to violating the civil rights of students and faculty of the Margolin Hebrew Academy by defacing a Torah and religious prayer books, while the students and faculty were staying overnight at a hotel in Jackson.

And in 2011, our office secured a life sentence for Dale Mardis. Mardis pled guilty to the racially-motivated killing of a Shelby County Code Enforcement Officer. Mardis murdered the man on April 17, 2001, but was not identified as his killer until over three years later.

These prosecutions have been part of an ongoing and coordinated effort between the U.S. Attorney's Office and federal and local law enforcement agencies. We will continue to protect the innocent by holding accountable those who violate civil rights laws. Victims of civil rights crimes are frequently the most vulnerable among us. But it does not matter who the victims are or what their backgrounds may be. I am a firm believer that while no criminal is above the law, no victim should ever be below the law. You can read more about the Civil Rights Unit and the chief of the Unit, Brian Coleman, in this issue of our newsletter.

#### On the Cover

U.S. Attorney Edward L. Stanton III speaks to students at the Grizzlies Academy during their Constitution in The Classroom Program.

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#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Tennessee is to enforce compliance with federal law, act as legal representation of all federal agencies within the District, and provide public safety within the District through equal and fair administration of justice.

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## **New to the USAO Western District of Tennessee**

The USAO welcomes new prosecutors to the team



BETH BOSWELL began her career in August of 2011 with the U.S. Attorney's Office as a Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA). Since 1998 and in conjunction with her work as a SAUSA, she worked as an Assistant District Attorney General (ADA) for the 24th Judicial District Attorney General's Office, which is a five county district. She was a member of the TN District Attorneys General Conference Training Committee since its inception in 1999. As such, she provided instruction for the TN District Attorneys General Conference New Prosecutor's Academy for 15 years and spoke at many other conferences and seminars state-wide. She graduated from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. Beth is assigned to the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) unit at the Jackson, Tennessee Banch Office.



DAMON K. GRIFFIN was born in Seattle, Washington but moved to Memphis, Tennessee at an early age. He attended White Station High School and attended Morehouse College. Named after the Honorable Judge Damon Keith of the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Damon attended law school at the University of Tennessee College

of Law. He returned to Memphis and practiced law in the private sector in the area of general civil litigation for a brief time. After two years, he joined the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office where he was an Assistant District Attorney General for five and a half years when he was asked to join Mayor Mark Luttrell's Administration as the Chief Ethics Officer for Shelby County Government and Assistant County Attorney. He served in that position for almost four years. Damon is assigned to the white collar crimes unit.



REAGAN TAYLOR is a native Memphian, returning home to join the U.S. Attorney's Office. She is a graduate of Spelman College and the University of Tennessee, College of Law. Most recently, Reagan was an AUSA in the Homicide Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, DC, and prior to her service there, she was a Presidential Management Fellow with the Drug Enforcement Administration. In returning home, she hopes to be an active member of the Memphis community both through the office and personally. Reagan is assigned to the OCDETF unit.



KASEY WEILAND is originally from Hartford, Connecticut, and grew up in Southern Maryland. She was a teacher in Shelby County for five years before attending law school at the University of Memphis. Upon graduating from law school in 2011, Kasey clerked for The Honorable Bernice B. Donald at the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Thereafter, Kasey entered the Department of Justice through the Attorney General's Honors Program, where she served as an Attorney Advisor in the Executive Office for Immigration Review in Arlington, Virginia. Kasey is thrilled to join the U.S. Attorney's Office and is assigned to Project Safe Childhood, white collar, and other criminal cases.



MARQUES YOUNG is a native Memphian and a graduate of the University of Memphis and the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis. He served as a Judicial Law Clerk for Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Camille R. McMullen. After a short time in private practice, he then joined the Shelby County District Attorney's Office. It was at the Shelby County District Attorney's Office that he made the decision to become a career prosecutor. As a career prosecutor, he has determined that there would be no better place to advance public safety other than the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Tennessee. Marques is assigned to the firearms unit.

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# Chastain Montgomery, Sr. Sentenced to Life Imprisonment Former corrections officer recieves two life sentences for the murder of U.S. Postal Service employees



By Terri Wiseman

August 12, 2014, former corrections officer, Chastain Montgomery, Sr., 50, of Lavergne, TN, was sentenced to consecutive life sentences in federal prison for the murders of United States Postal Service employees Paula Robinson and Judy Spray ending a four year ordeal for the victims' families.

"The senseless and heinous murders of Paula Robinson and Judy Spray have left an irreplaceable void throughout the entire community," stated U.S. Attorney Edward L. Stanton III. "I want to commend the tireless efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement who assisted with the investigation and prosecution of this case. The life sentence without the possibility of parole imposed upon Chastain Montgomery, Sr. will hopefully bring justice and a meaningful measure of closure to the Spray and the Robinson/Croom families."

According to the facts revealed in open court, on the morning of October 18, 2010, Montgomery, Sr. and his son Chastain Montgomery, Jr. drove from Nashville to Henning, TN to rob the United States Post Office that Montgomery, Sr. once worked at as a janitor. The pair murdered Sales

and Service Associate Robinson and Rural Carrier Associate Spray after Montgomery, Sr. became enraged when he realized there was only \$63 in cash at the post office.

Eight days after the post office robbery, the father and son stole a Nissan Frontier pick-up truck in Smyrna, TN and used it as the getaway vehicle following the armed robbery of Southeast Financial Credit Union in Lavergne, TN on October 29, 2010. One month later on November 29, 2010, the pair stole a Chevy Venture minivan and used it as a getaway vehicle following the armed robbery of Mid-South Bank in Smyrna, TN.

On the morning of February 14, 2011, Montgomery, Jr. carjacked a man at a construction site in Nashville, TN and stole his Chevrolet pick-up truck. The vehicle was equipped with a GPS tracking device and law enforcement officials were notified of the vehicle's location near Brownsville, TN. Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Smothers of the Haywood County Sheriff's Department spotted the vehicle and began a vehicular pursuit.

Chief Deputy Smothers reported that Montgomery, Jr. began driving at an excessive rate of speed and veered into other lanes. Chief Deputy Smothers was joined in his pursuit by Mason Police Chief J. C. Paris.

When Montgomery, Jr. entered the town of Mason, he exited his vehicle and began shooting at members of law enforcement and innocent civilians outside a nearby convenience store. Chief Deputy Smothers returned fire and struck Montgomery, Jr. who died at the scene.

enforcement Law immediately cordoned off the crime scene and began processing evidence. While doing so, officials noticed Montgomery, Sr. cross the crime scene barrier and begin moving toward the Chevrolet truck driven by his son. Montgomery, Sr. was taken into custody and transported to the Tipton County Sheriff's Department, after it was discovered that he was in possession of red dye stained money and was driving a car that matched the description of the vehicle spotted in Henning, TN the morning of the murders. While at the Tipton County jail, Montgomery, Sr. was interviewed by United States Postal Inspectors and made a full confession to all of his crimes.

In addition to the confession, law enforcement had confiscated a number of weapons and other items from the Mason crime scene, including the Ruger 9mm pistol and the Smith & Wesson .40 caliber pistol used to kill Robinson and Spray.

There is no parole in the federal system, so Montgomery, Sr. will spend the rest of his life in federal prison.

United States Attorney Edward L. Stanton III; Assistant U.S. Attorney Tony Arvin; Assistant U.S. Attorney Lorraine Craig; Assistant Attorney Stuart Canale; and Capital Case Section Attorney Michael Warbel represented the government.

# Anti Terrorism Advisory Council sponsors training National guest experts speak to federal, state, and local law enforcement officials



By AUSA Fred Godwin

Nearly 100 state, federal and local law enforcement officers attended annual anti-terrorism training at the Naval Support Activity Mid-South on July 18, 2014. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Tennessee, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, United States Secret Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation sponsored this training designed to expose law enforcement officers who don't routinely deal with terrorism matters to antiterrorism cases and investigations.

The highlight of the training was a presentation by Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Gary Coffee of the FBI's Boston Division. SSA Coffee supervises one of the squads on the Boston FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. Joint Terrorism Task Forces are located in each FBI division in the United States and include FBI agents, agents from other federal law enforcement agencies, and local law enforcement officers loaned to the task forces. Experience has shown that these multi-agency task forces work extremely well because of the multitude of skills brought to the table by various officers and agents of different backgrounds.

SSA Coffee was working the day of the Boston Marathon Bombing and supervises the squad that led the investigation. His presentation highlighted the variety of problems that arose in a mass casualty/crime event as

well as during the multi day man hunt for Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. SSA Coffee highlighted the evidence gathering, logistical and communication issues that arise in a mass casualty terrorist attack such as the Boston Marathon bombing.

He discussed the collection of the abundance of video surveillance from businesses that eventually aided in the identification and apprehension of the Tsarnaev brothers.

In the afternoon Intelligence Research Specialists Tiffany Hillman and Daniel Pawn, from the United States Secret Service Critical Protective Analysis Group, gave a presentation regarding

phases of a terrorist attack, preoperational surveillance, Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED), and developing terrorism trends. Finally, Assistant United States Attorney Fred Godwin gave a short presentation regarding electronic discovery issues which may arise for law enforcement officers.

The contributions of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the FBI, and the Secret Service in making this program successful cannot be overstated. Captain Douglas Walker, Commanding Officer NSA, and Mike Keleher Assistant Special Agent Charge of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service assisted the U.S. Attorney's Office by providing the venue and lunch for the participants. Special Agent in Charge Todd McCall, Memphis Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and Special Agent in Charge Rick Harlow, United States Service, Memphis office assisted by providing speakers. United States Attorney, Edward Stanton III addressed the audience regarding the role of all the agencies in making training possible.

United States Attorney Office Intelligent Specialist Steve Rutledge was instrumental in planning and executing training.



U.S. Attorney Edward Stanton III joins (From Left to Right)I Capt. Walker of the National Security Agency Midsouth, SAC Todd McCall of the FBI, ASAC Mike Keleher of the Naval Criminal Investigative Servic, SAIC Rick Harlow of the U.S. Secret Service and SSA Gary Coffee of the FBI's Boston Division during the Annual Anti-Terrorism training event.

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### Thirteenth Guilty Plea in Teacher Certification Testing Scam

Decades long scam has big repurcussions for participants

By AUSA John Fabian

On August 19, 2014, United States Attorney Edward L. Stanton III announced the guilty plea and sentencing of former Hillcrest High School and Byhalia High School boys basketball coach James Sales in a brazen teacher certification testing scam that spanned two decades.

U.S. Attorney Stanton also announced diversion agreements signed by Janett Dixon, Nia Kimble-Harris, Corey Holmes, and Charles Ray Lee. Sales' guilty plea is the thirteenth in a case opened by the United States Attorney's Office in August 2011, and the diversion agreements – which will result in loss of teacher licensure and include an agreement to pay restitution to school districts – bring the total number of diversion agreements to 40.

# The Teacher Certification Testing Scam

Mumford, Sr., the ringleader who pled guilty last year, was a teacher, guidance counselor, and assistant principal at schools in Arkansas,



Mississippi and Tennessee.

The scam began in the mid-1980s, when Mumford began altering score reports for teachers with failing certification test scores. Teachers used the altered score reports to obtain licenses and jobs. Mumford hired John Bowen, who was a substitute teacher at Humes Junior High School when Mumford was the assistant principal, to take examinations on behalf of failing teachers.

Over time, demand for Mumford's services grew as his name was passed by word of mouth among teachers and coaches in the Memphis City and Shelby County Schools and into Mississippi and Arkansas.

Mumford identified targets of his services in various ways, such as searching the Tennessee Department of Education website for teachers whose temporary licenses were expiring, asking people who used his services whether they knew anyone else who needed passing scores, and attending meetings where teachers discussed their licensing issues. Once he identified potential customers, he contacted them, sometimes initially using the pretense that he would tutor them before soliciting them to pay stand-ins to take their exams. Some of the customers knew exactly what they were getting into from the outset, while others had simply heard generally that Mumford could help them get a passing score.

Initially, Mumford charged approximately \$600 per exam, paying \$200 to Bowen. By 2010, Mumford was charging teachers approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000 and



(Left ) Money and driver's license for fake IDs found by law enforcement during the execution of a search warrant at Clarence Mumford's residence. (Right) Praxis test taken by stand-in test taker.

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paying the stand-ins up to \$600 to \$800 per exam. Unbeknownst to Mumford at the time, the scheme began to unravel on June 13, 2009 when proctors for examinations given at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro caught several of Mumford's stand-ins taking tests.

The incident was reported to Educational Testing Services, which looked into the tests and cancelled the relevant scores. Eventually, in 2010, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation was notified and asked to investigate.

Meanwhile, Mumford had suspended the scheme for several months after the Arkansas State incident. By early 2010, he resumed the scheme, apparently believing the incident had escaped the attention of law enforcement.

#### Law Enforcement Investigation

After receiving the request to investigate, the TBI interviewed participants in the Jonesboro testing and, in the fall of 2010, obtained a search warrant for Mumford's home.

At the home, investigators found a

variety of sources of information that identified additional participants in the scheme, including identification documents used to create fake IDs and correspondence from teachers involved in the scheme. They also found several thousand dollars in cash. They also found several thousand dollars in cash. After investigators learned that participants in several states were involved, the case was presented to the United States Attorney's Office, which began a federal investigation. The TBI remained the lead investigative agency, and the United States Secret Service joined the investigation.

State and federal investigators subpoenaed bank and phone records and conducted hundreds of interviews to attempt to unravel the entire scheme, traveling across western Tennessee and down through Mississippi to the delta. They found that Mumford's name had been passed along by word of mouth to dozens of teachers in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama.

In 2012, the Memphis City Schools - the central location of the scheme - had the highest percentage of all school districts in Tennessee of students below basic proficiency levels in Reading and Science. Nine Mississippi districts that had hired teachers enabled by Mumford were characterized as "Low Performing." At least 22 school districts in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama - and thousands of students in those districts - were victimized by the scheme.

#### Results of Investigation

To this point, 13 participants have been convicted of felonies, 10 of them serving time in prison. An additional 40 have reached diversion agreements that will result in losses of teaching licenses and an agreement not to even attempt to teach for at least five years. The agreements require those who got teaching jobs using Mumford's services to pay restitution to the school districts that employed them.

Clarence Mumford - the ringleader - is currently serving a seven-year sentence in federal prison. There is no parole in the federal system.

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## **Operation Desert Spice Seizes Synthetic Drugs**

Local Investigation second largest in scale in the United States

By AUSA Matt Wilson

In 2011 and 2012, the prevalence and popularity of synthetic marijuana, also known as "K-2" and "Spice," as well as synthetic cathinones, also known as "bath salts," grew exponentially with users nationwide. Retailers would openly sell the drugs as "novelty items" in convenience stores, tobacco stores, and head shops. By 2011, while the popularity of the drugs had skyrocketed, the dangers of the drugs on users had also become apparent. People were dying from using the drugs, and becoming addict-Law enforcement had to take action.

West Tennessee was no exception to the national trend. February 2011, the Jackson-Metro Narcotics Unit intercepted a number of packages from common carriers containing synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones. Testing revealed the substances were both Schedule I and Analogues of Schedule I substances. Congress specifically outlaws scheduled drugs through legislation. An Analogue substance is a substance that is chemically structurally similar, and has substantially the same effect on a user as a scheduled substance. Analogue substances have been illegal under federal law for decades. However, drug manufacturers attempt to stay ahead of the ability of Congress to schedule illegal drugs through the time it takes for laws to be passed.

The creation of new Analogue substances bring unknown per-

ils to a user. "These types of drugs are especially dangerous because a user oftentimes has no idea what he or she is ingesting – these drugs are often unknown and untested even amongst users, and the results can be deadly," said Matt Wilson, an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Tennessee.

On November 28, 2011, Jackson-Metro Narcotics served a series of search warrants on local gas stations and convenience stores, many of which were owned by Hassan "Sam" Safa and his brother Mahmoud "Steve" Safa. Synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones were seized, as well as tens of thousands in cash. Clerks revealed that Steve Safa, Ahmad Elsebae, and a store manager had told employees to display the substances and sell them as novelty items. Undeterred by the search warrants, the defendants chose to move the items under the counter, but continued to sell them to selected customers.

Due to the scope of the Jackson-Metro Narcotics seizures, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") became involved. In February 2012, synthetic cannabinoids cathinones again were seized in another round of search warrants. Since the 2011 seizures, there appeared to have been an increase in the amounts of these drugs in the Jackson area. Seized drug ledgers revealed hundreds of thousands of these drugs ordered and sold by the Safas, and it became apparent that Sam Safa was selling these drugs in wholesale amounts to others for further distribution.

A nationwide program, "Operation Logjam" took place in July 2012. It was conducted jointly by the DEA and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with assistance from the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations, as well as countless state and local law enforcement members in more than 109 U.S. cities and targeted every level of the synthetic designer drug industry, including retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers. More than 4.8 million packets of synthetic cannabinoids (ex. K-2, Spice) and the products to produce nearly 13.6 million more, as well as 167,000 packets of synthetic cathinones (ex. bath salts), and the products to produce an additional 392,000 were seized. The purpose of Operation Logjam was to disrupt the flow of these drugs throughout the distribution chain.

As a result of "Operation Logjam," and nationwide law enforcement efforts, obtaining finished synthetic cannabinoids and cathiones for resale became increasingly difficult. The same was true in West Tennessee. DEA learned that Sam Safa was obtaining raw Schedule I

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and Schedule I Analogue chemicals directly from laboratories in China, and manufacturing the substances into finished ingestable products in office buildings that he owned in Jackson, Tennessee. Synthetic marijuana is made by mixing the chemicals with surfactants, acetone, and glue, and spraying "Damiana," a dried vegetable matter, for a product which can be smoked. Flavoring, such as fruit and candy flavors, are often added to the product, to appeal to young users. With the cathinones, or bath salts, raw Schedule I and Analogue powder chemicals are mixed and cut with inert product, and packaged for snorting or ingesting in capsule form. Sam Safa would then supply his and other retail stores with the drugs. The drugs were mixed in various combinations with different flavorings and packaged with recognizable brand names, such as "Cush," "DaBluebonic Chronic, "White Widow," and "Zilla," to attract customers and maintain popularity with users. Sam Safa had customers in multiple states, and money

was both sent and received internationally, to and from countries including China and Lebanon.

The Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force, ("OC-DETF"), approved "Operation Desert Spice," a multi-jurisdictional investigation centered on the Safa drug trafficking organization in West Tennessee. Due to the scope of Sam Safa's manufacturing and wholesaling of the drugs, the OCDETF investigation quickly became the second-largest in scale in the United States. During the investigation, raw powdered Schedule I and Analogue drugs were seized from China, Florida, and New York, all intended to have been manufactured into finished products in West Tennessee. Finished products, which Sam Safa intended to go to wholesalers in multiple states, were intercepted through coordinated efforts by federal, state and local law enforcement.

Thirteen individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury in Jackson, Tennessee for their involvement

with the Safa drug trafficking organization. On June 26, 2013, 34 federal search warrants, and multiple arrest warrants were served within the Western District of Tennessee, including on the facilities used by Sam Safa to manufacture the drugs. Hundreds of thousands in United States currency, vehicles, firearms, and real properties were seized, as property constituting illegal drug proceeds, or property which facilitated drug trafficking. A majority of those assets have been forfeited through the federal court system, through both criminal and civil forfeiture processes. Ultimately, those assets, and proceeds from the sale of those assets. will be disbursed to federal, state, and local agencies which assisted in the investigation.

To date, 11 of the defendants indicted from Operation Desert Spice have pleaded guilty, and have been sentenced, or are awaiting sentencing. Sam and Steve Safa have remained fugitives from justice, and are believed to be outside the United States to avoid prosecution.













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## **In the Community**

National Night-Out, Ramadan Interfaith Dinner, Re-entry Outreach and Memorial Day Program



Above: U.S. Attorney Edward L. Stanton III and Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Godwin (far right) attend the 8th Annual Memphis Interfaith Dinner with FBI Special Agent Ann Miller (left) and local religous leaders Younis Sherif (far left) and George Lawal (center). Photo Courtesy of April Abdul-BaaQee.



Above: Assistant U.S. Attorney Damon Griffin (left) attends a National Night Out Celebtration at the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association (VECA).



Above: Assistant U.S. Attorney C. David Biggers, Jr., Captain Barry Wingfield, U.S. Attorney Edward L. Stanton III, Warden D.R. Stephens, Associate Warden Glenn Friss, Reentry Affairs Coordinator Bobby Hager. during a visit to the Federcal Correctional Institution in Memphis as part of the district's reentry and outreach efforts.



Above: Assistant U.S. Attorney C. David Biggers, Jr. (left) and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Hamilton Carricker (right) joins the Cooper Young district during their National Night Out event.



Left: U.S. Attorney Eward L. Stanton III (right) joined local officials and community leaders as the keynote speaker for the Boy Scouts' 31st Anniversary Memorial Day Program at Memphis National Cemetery. Each year over 1000 Boy Scouts and members of other local organizations participate in placing over 42,000 flags on the graves of our nations fallen at Memphis National Cemetery.

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# **AUSA Brian Coleman Named Civil Rights Unit Chief**



Edward L. Stanton III, U. S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, has named Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian K. Coleman to lead the district's Civil Rights Unit.

U.S. Attorney Stanton created the dedicated Civil Rights Unit in February 2011, in order to enhance the ability of the U.S. Attorney's Office to enforce federal civil rights laws in the Western District of Tennessee. The Civil Rights Unit prosecutes the full spectrum of federal civil rights crimes, including official misconduct, law enforcement corruption,

human trafficking, and hate crimes. In addition, fair housing, fair lending, Americans with Disability Act, and Uniform Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act cases continue to remain a priority of the district. The Civil Rights Unit has received national acclaim for its dedicated efforts, including prominent recognition from U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. and the Department of Justice for its distinguished work in combatting human and sex trafficking.

Mr. Coleman is a native Memphian who recieved his Bachelors of Arts degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University of Chicago, IL. Mr. Coleman has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Tennessee since 2008, specializing in public corruption and civil rights cases, including cases involving interstate stalking and criminal activities by members

of law enforcement. As Unit Chief, Mr. Coleman specializes in public corruption, color of law, and sex trafficking cases and leads the implementation of the Civil Rights Unit's strategic priorities. Coleman also manages relationships with community stakeholders and key federal, state, and local law enforcement partners and ensures the protection of Civil Rights for all citizens of the Western District of Tennessee.

"As a state and federal prosecutor for over 11 years, Brian Coleman brings absolute professionalism and a tenacious desire for justice to every case he handles," said United States Attorney Edward L. Stanton III. "I am confident that under his capable leadership, this district's Civil Rights Unit will continue to work diligently to ensure that all Americans enjoy the rights and freedoms the Constitution guarantees them."



## Department of Justice

United States Attorney Edward L. Stanton III Western District of Tennessee

# As Seen in the News...



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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE 167 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 800 MEMPHIS TN 38103

# **The Parting Shot**



The U.S. Attorney's Office participated in the Snowden Middle School College and Career Fair held on October 2nd, 2014. Assistant U.S. Attorney Reagan Taylor (far left) and Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Murphy, Jr. (far right) share information about the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office with students (left to right): Kiya Moore, Malcolm Taylor and Jahmir O'Kain.